

# THE PARISH MESSENGER

A PERSONAL VISITOR TO THE PARISHES

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA — OCTOBER 1960

## SYNOD PASTORS AT CONVENTION



Pastors of the Icelandic Synod were photographed with special convention guests just before the Seventy-fifth Anniversary English service on June 5th at Grund church in Glenboro parish.

Front row, l to r: The Rev. Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of the United Lutheran Church, and main speaker at the service; The Most Reverend Sigurbjorn Einarsson, Bishop of the Church of Iceland, and main speaker at the afternoon Icelandic service; The Rev. Eric Sigmar, synod president.

Second row: The Rev. Valdimar Eylands, First Lutheran, Winnipeg; The Rev. Jon Bjarman, Lundar, Man.; The Rev. E. S. Brynjolfsson, Vancouver, B.C.; The Rev O. D. Olsen, host pastor.

Third row: The Rev. Ingthor Indridason, Langruth, Man.; The Rev. Norman Nelson, Seattle, Wash.; The Rev. Wallace Bergman, Minneota, Minn. (now at Selkirk); The Rev. Dr. Frank P. Madsen, president of the Michigan Synod of the U.L.C.A.; The Rev. Edward Day, Selkirk, Man.; The Rev. Hjalti Gudmundson, Mountain, N.D.; the Rev. Harald Sigmar, Vancouver, Wash. (Pacific Synod); The Rev. K. Simundsson, Gimli, Man.; The Rev. R. E. Magnuson, Riverton, Man.; The Rev. K. K. Olafson, retired; The Rev. O. J. Larson, Arborg, Man

## CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS



The Seventy-fifth anniversary convention of the Icelandic Synod was held in the Glenboro parish June 6th to 8th with all parishes represented. Distinguished guests are pictured above: The Rev. O. Donald Olsen, host pastor; The Hon. George Johnson, Minister of Health for the Province of Manitoba, and a member of First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg; The Most Rev. Sigurbjorn Einarsson, Bishop of the Church of Iceland; The Rev. Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of the United Lutheran Church in America and the 50,000,000 member Lutheran World Federation; The Hon. Duff Roblin, premier of Manitoba; and the Rev. Eric H. Sigmar, synod president.

**MERGER** — The big item of discussion was the merger of the United Lutheran Church with the Augustana Lutheran Church (Swedish background), American Evangelical Lutheran Church (Danish background), and the Suomi Synod (Finish background), scheduled to become effective January 1, 1963. The combined membership of this merged body will be more than 3,000,000.

The decision facing the Icelandic Synod is whether to disband with congregations becoming part of geographical area synods or to continue as a separate language synod. If the synod disbands the 31 congregations would become members of five new synods: the 20 in Manitoba and one in Saskatchewan would be a part of the "Manitoba-Saskatchewan Synod"; the five in North Dakota would be in the "Red River Valley Synod"; the two in Minnesota would be in the "Minnesota Synod"; the two in Washington in the "Pacific Northwest Synod"; and the one in Vancouver in the "Alberta-British Columbia Synod."

The decision on the merger will be made at next year's convention. Congregations are asked to get as much information as possible (Convention minutes, etc.), hold a meeting to discuss and vote on the matter during the year, and instruct their delegates to the next convention.

**CONFERENCE** — If the Icelandic Synod does decide to disband an Icelandic Conference within the merged Church will be its successor. The purpose of the conference would be to maintain ties with the Church of Iceland; published "Sameiningin" and other religious materials for people of Icelandic background; and to promote common interest and projects. Any congregation or individual could participate in the proposed conference.

**PAPER COMING** — The Rev. K. K. Olafson, a man five years older than the Icelandic Synod, who served as its president for twenty years, presented a paper, "As I Have Seen It," at one of the evening programs. It was filled with historical insight, humor, and deep Christian faith. By order of the convention it is being printed and will be made available to our people in the near future.

**BETEL** — The Synod gave its approval for "Betel Home" to seek a new charter with the title "Betel Home Foundation." This home for the aged in Gimli will no longer be run by the Synod, nor be responsible to it, but will be a non-profit charitable foundation. But a majority of its directors (eight of the twelve) will be elected by Lutheran congregations in Manitoba which are currently members of the Icelandic Synod.

**LUTHERAN WORLD ACTION** — The director of Canadian Lutheran World Action, the Rev. Clifton Monk, reported to the convention that Canadian Lutherans sent 207,000 pounds of clothing to refugees last year (one camp of 40,000 refugees near Jericho is entirely clothed by what our Canadian Lutherans gave). This year 2,000,000 pounds of surplus pork is being sent to the hungry overseas by Canadian Lutherans, and we continue to provide milk for a million children in India every day. We run a 300 bed hospital for Arab refugees and a 50 bed hospital for Hong Kong refugees. We have regular schools and trade schools to help these unfortunate peoples — what good does it do to feed and clothe them if they never will be able to support themselves and have to remain on relief rolls?

It was pointed out that Canadian Lutherans were able to go the second mile in 1959. Although the Icelandic Synod congregations in Canada gave only 51% of their quota (U.S. congregations gave 38% of their quota) other synods made up the deficit, and more, so that more work than was planned could be done in the name of Christ among the world's desperately needy.

A little girl was kneeling on her father's lap and telling him how much she loved him; but she was looking over his shoulder and making faces at her little brother . . . Christians who hold race prejudices do just that. They tell God the Father they love Him and then look over His shoulder and tell His other children they despise them.

—E. Stanley Jones in "Conversion"

## AROUND THE SYNOD

The biggest news in our synod this fall is that for the first time in thirty years every parish has a pastor. This happy state of affairs came about when one synod pastor changed parishes and two new men accepted calls to our synod's congregations.

**SELKIRK** — The Rev. Edward A. Day, pastor of the Selkirk congregation for three years, resigned on July 31st to accept a call to the Illinois Synod. The Rev. Wallace M. Bargman, pastor of Minneota parish, then accepted a call to Selkirk effective September first. He was installed October 2nd by President Sigmar.

Pastor Bergman was born in Arborg, Manitoba, attended school in Gimli; graduated from United College in Winnipeg and Northwestern Seminary in Minneapolis; and was ordained by our synod in 1958.

**MINNEOTA** — The Rev. Donald R. Johnson then accepted a call to the Minneota parish. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota, and a 1960 graduate of Northwestern Theological Seminary in Minneapolis.

Pastor Johnson was ordained in an unusual service which is significant in view of the coming merger of four Lutheran Church bodies. On Sunday, September 18th, he was ordained into the ministry of the United Lutreran Church in America in an Augustana Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. The ordination sermon was preached by the Augustana pastor; the rite of ordination was conducted by the president of the Northwest Synod of the U.L.C.A.; and he is serving an Icelandic Synod congregation.

**GIMLI** — The Rev. Lorne Nadiger, formerly of Victoria, B.C., accepted a call to the Gimli parish in September, and was installed by President Sigmar on October 9th. Pastor Nadiger is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan and the Lutheran Seminary in Saskatoon. He served a parish in Yelm, Washington, as well as the congregation in Victoria, before coming to Gimli.

The Gimli parish was without a pastor for seventeen months. However, the Rev. K. Simundsson, of Seattle, Washington, served as interim pastor for nine months of that period.

Let's hope this doesn't have to happen in our congregations:

Dr. Donald L. Houser, executive secretary of the ULCA Board of American Missions, received the following quarterly report from the pastor of a new mission congregation in the Middle West:

"New interest. Many new faces. The future looks good. Pastor leaving."

**EDITOR RESIGNS** — Mrs. Beryl Goodman, editor of the "Parish Messenger" for the last three years, has resigned because of ill health. She has been ill for several months; hospitalized for a while; and may have to have surgery in the near future. We are grateful for her faithful work, and pray for her complete recovery.

The Rev. O. J. Larson has been appointed editor for the remainder of the year.

**RETIRED PASTORS HONORED** — The synod voted at the June convention to present "Certificates of Appreciation" to its five retired pastors. They are: the Rev. Dr. K. K. Olafson, the Rev. Dr. Harald Sigmar, the Rev. S. O. Thorlaksson, the Rev. Sigurdur Olafsson, and the Rev. G. P. Johnson.

Dr. K. K. Olafson, who celebrated his 80th birthday on September 28th, was presented his certificate during the Glenboro convention.



The picture at the right shows Pastor and Mrs. S. Olafsson in their home with President Sigmar when he presented the certificate to Pastor Olafsson. Also present on this special occasion were Pastor and Mrs. K. Simundsson, and Mrs. E. H. Sigmar.

President Sigmar presented certificates to Pastors: Sigmar, Thorlaksson, and Johnson at a reception in Kelso, Washington, honoring Dr. Sigmar on his 75th birthday shortly after the convention in June.

**ST. STEPHEN'S BUILDING** — The Ground Breaking service for the new St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in St. James, Manitoba, was held on the evening of June 16th with over 140 persons attending. Actual construction began on July 18th, and the building has progressed steadily. The cornerstone was laid following the morning service on Sunday, September 25th. It is expected that the church will be completed by late November. The Rev. E. H. Sigmar is the pastor.

**DR. EYLAND'S TRIP** — The Rev. V. J. Eylands, pastor of First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg for the last twenty-two years, spent the summer on a European-Palestine tour. He found the trip enlightening, but strenuous. During his absence the Rev. K. Simundsson served as interim pastor.

**LANGRUTH** — The Langruth congregation has purchased a new parsonage which is being fully modernized. The Rev. Ingthor Indridason is the pastor.

**ARBORG** — The Arborg congregation remodeled the interior of its church building last winter, and the exterior was painted in September. The congregation plans to construct two additions to the church this fall, install modern plumbing and a new furnace. Total cost of the project is expected to reach \$15,000.

**CONVENTION DELEGATES** — The bi-annual convention of the United Lutheran Church in America is meeting in Atlantic City October 13-20. Our synod's delegates are: the Rev. Eric H. Sigmar, synod president; the Rev. O. Donald Olson, synod secretary; Dr. Frank Scribner, Gimli; and Arni Josepheson, Glenboro.



# Let HIS Light So Shine Before Men

## 1961 BUDGET THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Send the Light to  
more people through  
second-mile giving!

### HOME MISSIONS IN U.S.A. AND CANADA

32.9% ... \$4,680,000

70 fields to be entered,  
65 new missions, salary aid to  
650 mission pastors,  
285 loans to parishes

### SOCIAL ACTION 2.3% ... \$327,400

Faith and Life Institutes,  
Evangelism, Social Missions

### PARISH EDUCATION

5.0% ... \$708,100

Current operations and  
long-range planning

### THE LUTHERAN 1.4% ... \$194,600

Information and inspiration  
for all families

### NATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL

3.9% ... \$553,400

Lutherans working together

### PENSIONS 5.6% ... \$796,600

Aid to sick, aged, widows, children

### NEW OPPORTUNITY and emergency fund

16.3% ... \$2,312,625

(to be allocated)

### OVERSEAS MISSIONS 20.2% ... \$2,877,900

India, Hongkong, Malaya, Japan,  
British Guiana, Liberia  
Uruguay, Argentina

### HIGHER EDUCATION

3.1% ... \$439,375

14 colleges, 10 seminaries,  
recruitment of men to ministry

### ULCA DEPARTMENTS—

#### PRESS, RADIO, TV

2.7% ... \$378,100 (Continent wide)

#### CHURCH ARCHITECTURE GUIDANCE

.5% ... \$65,000

#### WORSHIP .2% ... \$28,400

Enriching Devotional Life

#### ULC FOUNDATION .2% ... \$35,000

#### STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

(No allocation—  
LLM underwrites costs)

#### DEACONESS WORK 1.0% ... \$139,500

Teaching, Nursing, Leadership

#### EXECUTIVE ACTION 4.4% ... \$625,900

Through Dr. Fry ... Commissions,  
Committees, Lutheran World Federation,  
National Council of Churches,  
World Council of Churches,  
American Bible Society

#### LUTHER LEAGUE .4% ... \$54,500

Teen-age training

My Congregation

Helps the Light of the Gospel to Shine ...

Into All the World

## SYNOD FINANCES LAGGING

Figures coming from the office of the synodical treasurer, Oskar Bjorklund, reveal that benevolence receipts from congregations are much lower this year than in 1959. At the same time expenses are higher, as expected. Our synod's remittances to the United Lutheran Church for its world-wide program are less than half what they were a year ago at this time. A bulletin from the Stewardship Office shows our synod last of the 32 synods in percentage of receipts remitted.

The situation is serious and remedial measures must be taken immediately in all parishes if even a minimum program is to be continued. The Stewardship Committee is convinced that members and pastors, becoming aware of the situation, will not be satisfied to see any of the work of our synod curtailed because of insufficient funds, nor the United Lutheran Church deprived of any of the expected support from our Icelandic Synod.

"Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be yours as well."

I had read this verse many times, but this time, during my last year in college, it stuck in my mind. I was not obeying the verse, even though I was then planning to be a missionary. I was too busy working my way through school and studying. I would seek first the kingdom of God after graduation.

But were Jesus' teachings just for certain groups? Should they not apply to everyone? Suddenly, I decided that either they were good for everyone or they were good for no one. That meant then, I would have to obey that command now, not wait till later. It meant that Christian duties and privileges would have to come first — before money making and my studies.

From then on I tried consciously, each day, to seek first the kingdom. At the end of the year I had made more money than necessary for my schooling and my grades were the best yet. The other things were added. So in my Bible, I wrote opposite that verse, "It works."

—Charles W. Clay

**CONVENTION PICTURES** — Some orders for synod convention pictures have been slow in arriving because of a change in ownership. However, all those who placed orders should have them by now. Those who have not received their pictures are asked to write to:

Mr. Arni Josephson, Glenboro, Manitoba  
and include as many details as can be remembered.

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O. JACK LARSON, Editor — Box 367, ARBORG, MANITOBA

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## READ THE LUTHERAN

I would like each congregation of our Synod to appoint one of its members as representative of the "Lutheran," the news magazine of the United Lutheran Church. I will send this representative the necessary materials to promote the "Lutheran" in his congregation.

I am certain that the costs of 100% circulation, one to every family in the congregation, will pay for itself in every way. Current Expenses and Building Funds will show improvement, and your Mission support will exceed 100% requirements. This fact is shown in congregations that have consistently remained 100% in circulation of the "Lutheran."

This is the record for the "Lutheran" in our Synod for the last three years:

	1858	1959	1960
Ardal, Arborg .....	45	24	16
Argyle .....	23		13
Arnes .....	31*		
Gimli .....	127*		
Hecla .....	40*		
Husavick .....	18*		
St. Paul's, Minneota .....	77*		*83
Vikur, Mountain .....	67*	15	
Selkirk .....	20	151*	23
Calvary, Seattle .....		20	11
First, Winnipeg .....	40	43	
St. Stephen's, St. James .....	71*	75*	*90
<b>TOTALS</b> .....	<b>559</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>236</b>

\* indicates 100%.

N. O. BARDAL

Circulation Manager for  
the Icelandic Synod

DON'T THINK that if you don't belong to Christ you are free — Nobody is free. We are free only to choose our masters. It is Christ or something else that will rule us.

—E. Stanley Jones